



AustroHungarian
Orders, Medals and Decorations
Volume III: Decorations
Part II



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Table of Contents

Volume III Decorations, Part I

Introduction.....	4
Order of Precedence.....	5
Military Merit Cross (1849-1860).....	8
Military Merit Cross (1860-1914).....	14
Military Merit Cross (1914-1918).....	25

Volume III Decorations, Part II

Red Cross Decorations (1914-1923).....	69
Red Cross Medals (1914-1923).....	96
Bravery Medal (1849-1859).....	109
Bravery Medal (1859-1866).....	114
Bravery Medal (1866-1915).....	118
Bravery Medal (1915-1917).....	122
Bravery Medal (1917-1922).....	132
Officers Bravery Medal (1917-1922).....	143

Volume III Decorations, Part III

Ecclesiastic Merit Cross (1801-1918).....	153
Bronze Military Merit Medal (1890-1911).....	167
Military Merit Medal (1911-1917).....	173
Grand Military Merit Medal (1916-1917).....	187
Military Merit Medal (1917-1920).....	196
Grand Military Merit Medal (1917-1920).....	203
Civil Medal of Merit (1848-1849).....	210
Merit Cross (1850-1922).....	212
War Cross for Civil Merit (1916-1918).....	254
Iron Merit Cross (1916-1922).....	274
Karl Troop Cross (1916-1920).....	288
Forty Year Faithful Service Decoration (1898).....	295





Table of Contents

Volume III Decorations, Part IV

Officers Military Service Decoration, Second Class (1849-1890)).....	305
Officers Military Service Decoration, First Class (1890-1918).....	308
Officers Military Service Decoration, Second Class (1890-1918)	317
Officers Military Service Decoration, First Class (1849-1890, Third Class (1890-1918)	323
Non-Commissioned Officers & Troops Military Service Decoration, First Class (1849-1867)...	331
Non-Commissioned Officers & Troops Military Service Decoration, Second Class (1849-1867).	333
Non-Commissioned Officers & Troops Military Service Decoration, First Class (1867-1890), Second class (1890-1913).....	335
Non-Commissioned Officers & Troops Military Service Decoration, First Class (1867-1869), Second class (1890-1913).....	336
Non-Commissioned Officers & Troops Military Service Decoration, Second Class (1867-1869),	338
Non-Commissioned Officers & Troops Military Service Decoration, Third Class (1867-1869), Second Class (1869-1890) and First Class (1890-1913).....	340
Non-Commissioned Officers & Troops Military Service Decoration, Third Class (1867-1869), Second Class (1869-1890) and First Class (1890-1913)	341
Non-Commissioned Officers & Troops Military Service Decoration, First Class (1913-1918)...	343
Non-Commissioned Officers & Troops Military Service Decoration, Second Class (1913-1918)	345
Non-Commissioned Officers & Troops Military Service Decoration, Third Class (1913-1918)...	347
Wound Medal (1917-1922).....	350
Home Guard 25 Year Service Medal (1908-1918).....	356
Home Guard 40 Year Service Medal (1908-1918).....	359





Decorations

Red Cross Decoration

(Ehrenzeichen vom Roten Kreuz)



Image from Pinterest

Date Issued: This decoration was authorized on August 17, 1914 on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the ratification of the Geneva Convention in 1864 and was issued until 1923.

Reason Issued: This decoration was issued for meritorious service in support of the Red Cross, in time of war. The insignia with war decoration was an award for actions in support of the humane efforts of the Red Cross. The insignia without war decoration were issued for significant donations to the Red Cross in support of the war effort. The class of the decoration received was determined for those with war decoration by the rank of the recipient and for those without war decoration by the amount of the donation.

Classes or Types: This decoration was originally issued in three classes with a forth class: the officer cross, added in 1915.

- Red Cross Merit Star with and without war decoration
- Red Cross Decoration First Class with and without war decoration
- Red Cross Officer Cross with war decoration (July 22, 1915-1918)
- Red Cross Decoration Second Class with and without war decoration

Interesting Facts:

- The awards without war decoration were given to recognize a donation to the Red Cross in support of the war effort
- Red Cross Decoration Second Class = 1,000 Krona total or 50 Krona per year and in either case a 100 Krona service fee.
- The Red Cross Merit Star and first Class Decoration could only be issued by the Emperor
- The Officer Cross and Second Class Decoration could be authorized by the Acting Patron of the Red Cross: General of Cavalry Franz Salvator
- Emperor Franz Joseph was the Proprietor of the Red Cross and thus of the decoration
- Nominations for the Red Cross Merit Star and First Class decoration had to be made by the Patron, Acting Patron of the Red Cross or the Administrator of the Red Cross.
- Recipients of the officers cross and second class cross with war decoration were usually volunteer health workers, members of the Red Cross, or staff of the War Medical Bureau.
- Awards with the engraved dedications from the recipients peers intended to honor the recipient are known to exist.





Decorations

Red Cross Decoration

(Ehrenzeichen vom Roten Kreuz)

Interesting Facts (Continued):

- The Officer Cross created on July 22, 1915 was the only Red Cross decoration which was only issued for merit with the war decoration. It was intended primarily for officers at the rank of colonel and above and/or Military Physicians. It was rarely awarded to women. It could be awarded to foreigners
- Award Diplomas for the Merit Star and First Class badge were signed by the Emperor and those of the officer decoration and second class by the Acting Patron.

Hallmarks:

- The Vinc Mayor and Sons hallmark
- The 1872-1922, 900 fine silver hallmark
- The hallmark of the Vienna Assay Office
- The Rothe & Neffe hallmark
- The 1872- 1922, 800 fine silver hallmark
- The hallmark of G.A. Scheid
- Rudolf Souval hallmark

Design: A silver and enamel Latin cross

Obverse:

- **Red Cross Merit Star with war decoration:** A vaulted silver Latin cross with chased edges. Inside the edge of the cross is a wide band of opaque white enamel. Inside the white portion of the cross is the body of the cross, which is enameled transparent red. A fine chased line of silver separates the white and red portions of the cross. In the center of the cross is a silver edged circle of transparent red enamel 20 mm in diameter on which is inscribed in silver letters **PATRIAE AC HVMANITATI** (Patriotism and Humanity). Inside the circle is a silver bordered transparent red enameled Geneva cross on a white opaque enameled background. Between the arms of the cross are bundles of silver rays. Each bundle is composed of seven diamond cut rays with the center rays being longer than the rest. Passing over the arms of the cross and under the rays is a green enameled wreath composed of laurel on the right and oak on the left. The wreath is tied at the bottom with a silver bow and has red enameled berries.
- **Red Cross Merit Star:** A vaulted silver Latin cross with chased edges. Inside the edge of the cross is a wide band of opaque white enamel. Inside the white portion of the cross is the body of the cross which is enameled transparent red. A fine chased line of silver separates the white and red portions of the cross. In the center of the cross is a silver bordered circle of transparent red enamel 20 mm in diameter in which is inscribed in silver letters **PATRIAE AC HVMANITATI** (Patriotism and Humanity). Inside the circle is a transparent silver edged red enameled Geneva cross on a white opaque enameled background. Between the arms of the cross are bundles of silver rays. Each bundle is composed of seven diamond cut rays. The center rays are longer than the others.





Decorations

Red Cross Decoration

(Ehrenzeichen vom Roten Kreuz)

Obverse (continued):

- **Red Cross Decoration, First Class with war decoration:** A silver Latin cross with chased edges. Inside the edge of the cross is a 2 mm wide band of opaque white enamel. Inside the white portion of the cross is the body of the cross which is enameled transparent red. A fine chased line of silver separates the white and red portions of the cross. In the center of the cross is a 17 mm circle of silver edged transparent red enamel in which is inscribed in silver letters **PATRI-AE AC HVMANITATI** (Patriotism and Humanity). Inside the circle is a silver bordered transparent red enameled Geneva cross on a white opaque enameled background. Attached to the arms of the cross is an enameled wreath. It is composed of oak leaves on the left and laurel on the right. The wreath is tied at the bottom with a silver bow. The wreath is enameled transparent green with red berries. The eye at the top of the cross is a stylized wedge.



- **Red Cross Decoration, First Class:** A silver Latin cross with chased edges. Inside the edge of the cross is a 2 mm wide band of opaque white enamel. Inside the white portion of the cross is the body of the cross, which is enameled transparent red. A fine chased line of silver separates the white and red portions of the cross. In the center of the cross is a 17 mm silver bordered circle of transparent red enamel in which is inscribed in silver letters **PATRIAE AC HVMANITATI** (Patriotism and Humanity). Inside the circle is a silver edged transparent red enameled Geneva cross on a white opaque enameled background.





Decorations

Red Cross Decoration (Ehrenzeichen vom Roten Kreuz)

Obverse (continued):

- **Red Cross Officer Cross with war decoration:** A silver Latin cross with chased edges. Inside the edge of the cross is a 2 mm wide band of opaque white enamel. Inside the white portion of the cross is the body of the cross, which is enameled transparent red. A fine chased line of silver separates the white and red portions of the cross. In the center of the cross is a circle of silver edged transparent red enamel in which is inscribed in silver letters **PATRIAE AC HVMANITATI** (Patriotism and Humanity). Inside the circle is a silver bordered transparent red enameled Geneva cross on a white opaque enameled background. Attached to the arms of the cross is an enameled wreath. It is composed of oak leaves on the left and laurel on the right. The wreath is tied at the bottom with a silver bow. The wreath is enameled transparent green with red berries.



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

- **Red Cross Decoration, Second Class with war decoration:** A silver Latin cross with chased edges. Inside the edge of the cross is a 2 mm wide band of opaque white enamel. Inside the white portion of the cross is the body of the cross, which is enameled transparent red. A fine chased line of silver separates the white and red portions of the cross. In the center of the cross is a silver edged circle of transparent red enamel in which is inscribed in silver letters **PATRIAE AC HVMANITATI** (Patriotism and Humanity). Inside the circle is a silver bordered transparent red enameled Geneva cross on a white opaque enameled background. Attached to the arms of the cross is an enameled wreath. It is composed of oak leaves on the left and laurel on the right. The wreath is tied at the bottom with a silver bow. The wreath is enameled transparent green with red berries. The eye at the top of the cross is a stylized wedge.



Image courtesy of Dorotheum





Decorations

Red Cross Decoration

(Ehrenzeichen vom Roten Kreuz)

Obverse (continued):

- **Red Cross Decoration, Second Class:** A silver Latin cross with chased edges. Inside the edge of the cross is a 2 mm wide band of opaque white enamel. Inside the white portion of the cross is the body of the cross, which is enameled transparent red. A fine chased line of silver separates the white and red portions of the cross. In the center of the cross is a silver edged circle of transparent red enamel in which is inscribed in silver letters **PATRIAE AC HVMANITATI** (Patriotism and Humanity). Inside the circle is a transparent silver bordered red enameled Geneva cross on a white opaque enameled background. The eye at the top of the cross is a stylized wedge.



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

Design:

Reverse:

- **Red Cross Service Star with and without war Decoration:** A plain silver Latin cross. In the center of the cross is a silver edged circle of transparent red enamel with a white enameled center medallion within which are the dates **1864** and **1914**, in silver, one above the other. On the upper arm of the cross is a suspension pin and on the lower arm is the clasp into which it fits. The cross with war decoration has an applied wreath the reverse of which is plain.





Decorations

Red Cross Decoration

(Ehrenzeichen vom Roten Kreuz)

Obverse (continued):

- **Red Cross Decoration, First Class with war decoration:** A silver Latin cross with chased edges. Inside the edge of the cross is a 2 mm wide band of opaque white enamel. Inside the white portion of the cross is the body of the cross, which is enameled transparent red. A fine chased line of silver separates the white and red portions of the cross. In the center of the cross is a silver edged circle of transparent red enamel with a 10 mm white enameled center medallion within which are the dates **1864** and **1914**, in silver, one above the other. Attached to the obverse arms of the cross is a wreath which is plain silver on the reverses

Image courtesy of Dorotheum



- **Red Cross Decoration, First Class:** A silver Latin cross with chased edges. Inside the edge of the cross is a 2 mm wide band of opaque white enamel. Inside the white portion of the cross is the body of the cross, which is enameled transparent red. A fine chased line of silver separates the white and red portions of the cross. In the center of the cross is a silver edged circle of transparent red enamel with a 10 mm white enameled center medallion on which are the dates **1864** and **1914**, in silver, one above the other.



Picture courtesy of Dorotheum





Decorations

Red Cross Decoration

(Ehrenzeichen vom Roten Kreuz)

Reverse:

- **Red Cross Officer Cross (Type I):** A plain silver Latin cross with the dates **1864** and **1914** engraved on the transverse arms. Each of the vertical arms of the cross has a curved attachment device. The reverse center is a 17 mm round silver button. The reverse of the attached wreath is in plain silver metal.



- **Red Cross Officer Cross (Type II):** A plain silver Latin cross. The upper arm of the cross has a wide pin for attaching the cross to the tunic and the lower arm a curved eye. In the center of the cross is a 17 mm silver edged center medallion composed of a silver bordered circle of transparent red enamel with a white enameled center medallion on which are the dates **1864** and **1914**, in silver, one above the other. The reverse of the attached wreath is in plain silver metal.





Decorations

Red Cross Decoration

(Ehrenzeichen vom Roten Kreuz)

Reverse continued:

- **Red Cross Decoration, Second Class with war decoration:** A silver Latin cross with chased edges. Inside the edge of the cross is a 2 mm wide band of opaque white enamel. Inside the white portion of the cross is the body of the cross, which is enameled transparent red. A fine chased line of silver separates the white and red portions of the cross. In the center of the cross is a silver bordered circle of transparent red enamel with a 10 mm white enameled center medallion within which are the dates **1864** and **1914** in silver, one above the other. Applied to the obverse arms of the cross is a wreath the reverse of which is plain silver metal.



Picture courtesy of Dorotheum

- **Red Cross Decoration, Second Class:** A silver Latin cross with chased edges. Inside the edge of the cross is a 2 mm wide band of opaque white enamel. Inside the white portion of the cross is the body of the cross, which is enameled transparent red. A fine chased line of silver separates the white and red portions of the cross. In the center of the cross is a silver edged circle of transparent red enamel with a 10 mm white enameled center medallion on which are the dates **1864** and **1914** in silver, one above the other.



Picture courtesy of Dorotheum





Decorations

Red Cross Decoration

(Ehrenzeichen vom Roten Kreuz)

Weight:

- Red Cross Merit Star with war decoration: 53 grams
- Red Cross Merit Star: 49 grams
- Red Cross Decoration, first class with war decoration: 36-45 grams
- Red Cross Decoration, first class: 31-36.6 grams
- Red Cross Officer Cross with war decoration: 29-33 grams
- Red Cross Decoration, second class with war decoration: 20-22.8 grams
- Red Cross Decoration, second class: 18-22.1 grams

Size:

- Red Cross Merit Star with war decoration: 69-70 mm in height and 56-57 mm in width
- Red Cross Merit Star: 69 -70 mm in height and 56 -57 mm in width
- Red Cross Decoration, first class with war decoration: 61mm in height and 46-47.5 mm in width, not including the attached eye.
- Red Cross Decoration, first class: 56.3-61.2 mm in height and 46-47.9 mm in width, not including the attached eye.
- Red Cross Officer Cross with war decoration: 57 mm in length and 47 mm in width. The crosses are 8 mm thick.
- Red Cross Decoration, second class with war decoration: 45-48.5 mm in height and 37 mm in width not including the attached eye.
- Red Cross Decoration, second class: 45-48 mm in height and 37 mm in width not including the attached eye.

Type of Material: Silver and enamel and silver gilt bronze and enamel

Variations:

- Red Cross Merit Star with war decoration: None known
- Red Cross Merit Star: none known
- Red Cross Decoration, first class with war decoration: none known
- Red Cross Decoration, first class: none known
- Red Cross Officer Cross with war decoration
 - ◊ Type I: Cross as described above with a plain silver reverse on which the dates are engraved on the horizontal arms
 - ◊ Type II: Cross as described above with a silver reverse and with a red and white enameled center medalion on which appears the dates 1864 and 1914
- Red Cross Decoration, second class with war decoration: None known
- Red Cross Decoration, second class: None known

Designer: Unknown

Manufacturer:

- Vinc Mayor and sons
- G.A. Scheid
- C.F. Rothe and Neffe
- Lang, Testverek

Number Issued:

- Red Cross Merit Star with war decoration = 59, of which 7 were to women and 9 to foreigners
- Red Cross Merit Star = 8, 1 to a women and 4 to foreigners (3 of those who received the star later received the war decoration)
- Red Cross Decoration, first class with war decoration = Unknown
- Red Cross Decoration, first class = Unknown
- Red Cross Officer Cross with war decoration = Unknown
 - Red Cross Decoration, second class with war decoration = Unknown
 - Red Cross Decoration, second class = Unknown





Decorations

Red Cross Decoration

(Ehrenzeichen vom Roten Kreuz)

Order of Precedence:

- Red Cross Merit Star, Number 21 after the Order of Leopold, knight and before the Order of Franz Joseph Officer
- Red Cross Decoration First Class, Number 28 after the Military Merit Cross, third class and before the Ecclesiastic Cross, first class
- Red Cross Officer Cross, Number 41 after the Franz Joseph Commemoration Cross, Second Class and before the Gold Merit Cross
- Red Cross Decoration Second Class, Number 64 after the Franz Joseph Cross, third class and before the Military Service Cross for Enlisted Personnel, first class



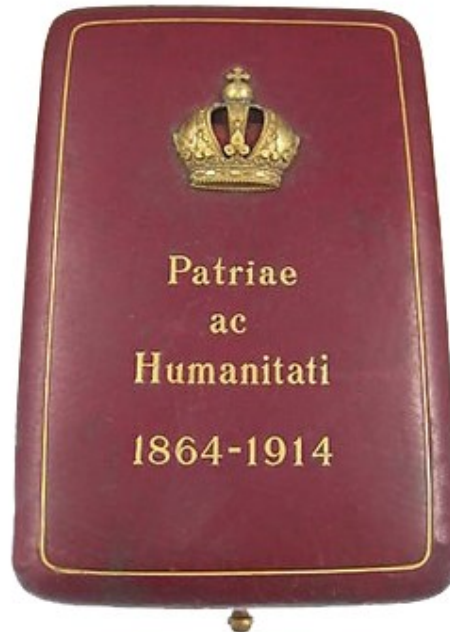


Decorations

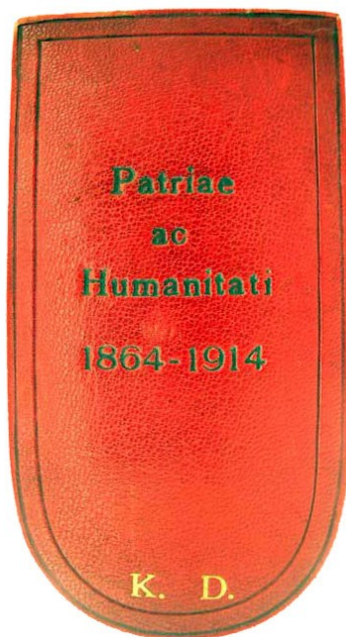
Red Cross Decoration

(Ehrenzeichen vom Roten Kreuz)

Case: Cases are red leather or red cloth covered and come in two shapes: Rectangular for the star and for first and second class awards on tri-fold ribbons and square for the officers cross and awards on bows. Cases most often are simulated red leather on the top and sepia on the bottom. They are fitted inside with a plush simulated velvet interior which may be either black or white. The interior of the lid is white satin and often has the maker's logo. They are made of pressed paper. They are engraved on the top with the name of the decoration in gold or silver. There are also cases in white cardboard with a silver inscription and a red Geneva cross on the lid.



Case for the Red Cross
Merit Star



Case for the Red Cross
Decoration First Class





Decorations
Red Cross Decoration
(Ehrenzeichen vom Roten Kreuz)

Case: (Continued)



Case for the Red Cross
Officers Cross



Case for the Red Cross
Decoration Second Class





Decorations
Red Cross Decoration
(Ehrenzeichen vom Roten Kreuz)

Case: (Continued)





Decorations

Red Cross Decoration

(Ehrenzeichen vom Roten Kreuz)

Ribbon: the basic ribbon design is white with two red side stripes

- Red Cross Merit Star: no ribbon
- Red Cross Decoration First Class: The men's decoration is suspended from a 50 mm wide white neck ribbon with two 4 mm wide red stripes, which are 4 mm from the edge of the ribbon and 4 mm apart. The woman's ribbon is the same size but was in the form of a bow.
- Red Cross Officer Cross with war decoration: No ribbon
- Red Cross Decoration Second Class: The men's decoration was suspended from a 37 or 40 mm wide white tri-fold ribbon with two 3 mm wide red stripes, which are 3 mm from the edge of the ribbon and 3 mm apart. The woman's ribbon is the same size but is in the form of a bow

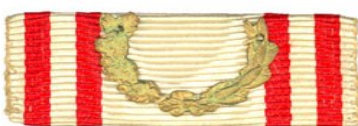


13 decoration ribbon bar with red cross decoration



A small rectangular ribbon for this decoration sometimes issued with small attachments to indicate specific awards was introduced in October 27, 1917.

Ribbon with war decoration



Ribbon with First class attachment



Ribbon with Merit Star attachment





Decorations
Red Cross Decoration
(Ehrenzeichen vom Roten Kreuz)

Ribbon: (Continued)





Decorations

Red Cross Decoration

(Ehrenzeichen vom Roten Kreuz)

Attachments: The first class insignia for women is attached to the ribbon by a 20 mm silver metal bow.





Decorations

Red Cross Decoration

(Ehrenzeichen vom Roten Kreuz)

Miniature: There are a wide range of miniatures of this decoration



Image attributed to Kituntetese, Agnes
Makai & Vera Heri, Kiado Zrinyi





Decorations

Red Cross Decoration

(Ehrenzeichen vom Roten Kreuz)



Recipients of the Red Cross Merit Star with war decoration

- General of Cavalry, Archduke Franz Salvator
- Fieldzugmeister Alexander Ritter von Krobatin, Royal and Imperial Minister of War
- General of Infantry Friedrich Freiherr von Georgi, Royal and Imperial Minister of Defense
- General of Cavalry, Archduke Eugen, Commander of the 5th Army
- Bailli Fra Johann Rudolf Count von Hardegg auf Glatz and in Marchland Prince-Grand Prior and Bohemian and Austrian Sovereign of the Order of Malta
- Rudolf Count Abensperg und Traun, Commissar of the Austrian aid societies and clubs
- Dr. Karl Freiherr Heinold und Udynski , Royal and Imperial Minister of the Interior
- Johann Sandor von Csikszentmihaly, Royal Minister of the Interior
- General of Infantry, Archduke Joseph Ferdinand
- General of Infantry Hermann Kovess von Koveshaza
- General of Cavalry Franz Rohr
- General of Cavalry Eduard von Bohm-Ermolli
- General of Cavalry Karl Freiherr von Pflanzer-Baltin
- General of Cavalry Viktor Dankl
- General of Infantry Svetozar Boroevic von Bojna
- Queen Marie Therese of Bavaria
- Major General Archduke Karl Franz Josef
- Archduchess Zita
- Admiral Archduke Karl Stephan, Protector of the Royal and Imperial war relief effort
- Feldzeugmeister, Archduke Leopold Salvator, Protector of the Widows and Orphans Fund for the armed forces
- Admiral Anton Haus, commander of the navy
- Dr. Zdenko Freiherr von Forster, Imperial and Royal Railway Minister
- Johann Baron Harkanyi von Taktahrkany, Royal Minister of Trade
- Colonel General Franz Freiherr Conrad von Hotzendorf, Chief of the General Staff
- Stephan Baron Burian von Rajecz, Imperial and Royal Foreign Minister
- Karl Graf Sturgkh, Imperial and Royal Prime Minister
- Dr. Ernst Koerber, Minister of Finance
- Stephan Graf Tisza, Royal Prime Minister
- General of Infantry Samuel Freiherr von Hazai, Royal National Minister of Defense
- Hussein Hilmi, Imperial Ottoman Ambassador in Vienna
- W.Ev.Geschow, Bulgarian Prime Minister and President of the Bulgarian Red Cross
- Dr. Karl Ritter von Leth, Royal and Imperial Minister of Finance
- General Field Marshall, Prince Leopold of Bavaria
- Generaloberst, Archduke Josef
- Duke Ernst August von Cumberland, Duke of Braunschweig and Luneburg
- Duchess Thyra von Cumberland, Duchess of Braunschweig and Luneburg
- Cardinal Dr. Friedrich Gustav Piffl Archbishop of Vienna
- Franziska Princess of Montenuovo, First Vice President of the Austrian Red Cross Society
- General of Infantry Oskar Zednik Edler von Zeldegg
- Prince Waldemar von Denmark
- General of Infantry Artur Baron Arz von Straussenburg, Chief of the General Staff





Decorations

Red Cross Decoration

(Ehrenzeichen vom Roten Kreuz)



Recipients of the Red Cross Merit Star with war decoration (continued)

- General of Infantry Rudolf Stoger-Steiner Edler von Steinstätten, Royal and Imperial Minister of War
- Generaloberst Karl Tersztyansky von Nadas
- Generaloberst Karl Freiherr von Kirchbach auf Lauterbach
- Archduchess Maria Josepha
- Archduchess Maria Theresia
- Prince Johann Georg von Saxony
- Markus Matz Count von Spiegelfeld, President of the Prisoner of War Information Office
- Leo Freiherr von Skrbensky, Cardinal, Archbishop of Olmitz
- Dr. Nikolaus Count Szechenyi von Sarvar Felso-Videk, Bishop of Nagy-Varad
- General of Division Dschemal Pascha, Imperial Ottoman Minister of the Navy
- Ida Princess Lobkowitz, President of the Women's Auxiliary of Bohemia
- Dr. Ernst Ritter von Feuchtenegg, Royal and Imperial Prime Minister
- Friedrich Count Toggenburg, Royal and Imperial Minister of the Interior
- Dr. Karl Freiherr von Banahns, Royal and Imperial Railway Minister
- Lieutenant General Karl Czapp von Birkenstetten, Royal and Imperial Minister of Defense
- Bishop Emmerich Bjelik, Apostolic Field Vicker
- General of Infantry Alexander Freiherr von Szurmay
- Dr. Viktor Mataja, Royal and Imperial Minister for Social Welfare
- Generaloberst Hermann Kusmanek von Burg-Neustadten
- Archduchess Marie Valerie
- Field Marshal Archduke Friedrich
- Major General Alios Prince Schonburg-Hartenstein
- General of Cavalry Kurt von Pful, President of the German Red Cross



Recipients of the Red Cross Merit Star

- Archduchess Marie Valerie (later awarded the war decoration)
- General of Infantry Archduke Friedrich (later awarded the war decoration)
- Major General Alios, Prince Schonburg-Hartenstein
- Andreas Count Csekonic de Zsombolya et Janova, Royal Hungarian Commissar for the Auxiliary Aid Society
- General of Cavalry Kurt von Pful, President of the German Red Cross (later awarded the war decoration)
- Frederik Courtland Penfield, U.S. Ambassador to Austria-Hungary
- Rear Admiral Word, Commander of a U.S. Red Cross ship
- Dr. H. van Dyke, Envoy of the USA in the Haag



Recipients of the Red Cross Decoration first class

- The first award of the first class decoration with war decoration was on November 30, 1914 to industrialist magnet Hugo Kistersitz of Marenhorst in Vienna
- The first award of the first class decoration without war decoration was to Leopoldine Wittgenstein in Vienna on January 8, 1915
- Additional early recipients were: Anton Dreher a great land owner in KleinSchwechat, Max Ritter von Gutmann, a mining expert, Dr. Alfons Thorsch, Kurt Wittgenstein and Ludwig Wittgenstein





Decorations

Red Cross Decoration

(Ehrenzeichen vom Roten Kreuz)



Recipients of the Red Cross Decoration first class with war decoration

- The first award of the first class decoration with war decoration was to Vera Stefanowicz, President of the Czernowitz Woman's Committee of the National Association of the Red Cross on January 31, 1915.
- The first award of the first class decoration with war decoration to a man was on February 11, 1915 to Chief Medical Officer, First Class, Dr. Franz Pick, Chief Health Officer of the Military Headquarters in Vienna



Recipients of the Red Cross Officers Decoration

- The first 11 decorations were awarded on July, 23, 1915. The recipients were:
 - ◊ Major-General Artur Edler von Mecenseffy, Colonel of the General Staff,
 - ◊ Hermann Leidl, General in Chief 3rd Army Eastern Theater of Operations Headquarters,
 - ◊ Fran Honigschmid, General in Chief 4th Army Eastern Theater of Operations Headquarters,
 - ◊ Oberstabsarzt 1st class, Dr. Gottlieb Arnstein, Medical Commander 15th Corp,
 - ◊ Dr. Eduard Lang, Medical Commander 13th Corp,
 - ◊ Dr. Alexander Majewsk, Medical Commander 8th Group Eastern theater of Operations Headquarters,
 - ◊ Dr. Adelbert Pausz, Medical Commander 4th Corp,
 - ◊ Dr. Johann Vlcek, Korps Medical Commander,
 - ◊ Dr. Gustav Weil, Medical Commander 16th Corp
 - ◊ Oberstabsarzt 2nd class, Dr. Julius Reich, Corp Medical Commander
 - ◊ Stabsarzt Dr. Emil Hochmann, Medical Advisor of the Headquarters of the Southwest Front
- The first awards of the officer decoration to women was on December 23, 1915 to Nadine Countess Berchtold, and to Hedda Freiin von Skoda



Recipients of the Red Cross Decoration second class

- The first award of the second class decoration without war decoration was on September 10, 1914
- The first woman to receive the award on September 10, 1914 was Anna Tamesy d Fogaras, the wife of a Lieutenant General
- The first man to receive the award on September 10, 1914 was Dr. Heinrich Hoffling
- Another notable recipient was Dr. Leon Ritter von Bilinski the Minister of Finance



Recipients of the Red Cross Decoration second class with war decoration

- The first award of the second class decoration with war decoration was on November 16, 1914
- The first recipients of the award were Dr. Heinrich Kolacny, Commander of the Reserve Hospital 2/5 and Dr. Artur Man of Hospital 15





Decorations
Red Cross Decoration
(Ehrenzeichen vom Roten Kreuz)



**The Award Certificate for the
Austrian Red Cross
Decoration Second Class**





Decorations
Red Cross Decoration
(Ehrenzeichen vom Roten Kreuz)



The Award Certificate for the
Austrian Red Cross
Decoration Second Class with war decoration





Decorations
Red Cross Decoration
(Ehrenzeichen vom Roten Kreuz)



**Franz Salvatore, Franz Joseph's son in law and the overseer of the Austrian Red Cross
wearing the Red Cross Merit Star with war decoration**





Decorations
Red Cross Decoration
(Ehrenzeichen vom Roten Kreuz)



General Oberst, Graf Viktor Dankl von Krasnik
wearing the Red Cross Merit Star with war decoration





Decorations
Red Cross Decoration
(Ehrenzeichen vom Roten Kreuz)



**General of Infantry Sandor von Szurmay wearing the Red Cross Decoration
First Class with war decoration**





Decorations
Red Cross Decoration
(Ehrenzeichen vom Roten Kreuz)



Feldmarschalleutnant Geza Lukacich von Somorja
wearing the Red Cross Decoration, Officer Cross





Decorations

Red Cross Decoration

(Ehrenzeichen vom Roten Kreuz)



A Military Chaplain wearing the Red Cross Decoration Second Class with war decoration



Medal Bar with the Red Cross Decoration, second class with war decoration





Decorations

Red Cross Decoration

(Ehrenzeichen vom Roten Kreuz)



Silver Medal with and without war decoration

Date Issued: This decoration was created on August 22, 1914 on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the ratification of the Geneva Convention in 1864. It was officially issued until 1923.

Reason Issued: These awards were issued for two different reasons. Those awards with war decoration were issued for meritorious service, in time of war, not warranting the award of the Red Cross Honor Decoration, second class. Recipients were usually volunteer health workers, members of the Red Cross, or staff of the War Help Bureau. This award was a reward for actions in support of the humane efforts of the Red Cross. Those awards without the war decoration were given for an annual financial donation to support the efforts of the Red Cross.

Classes or Types: This award was issued in two classes

- Red Cross Silver Merit Medal with and without war decoration
- Red Cross Bronze Merit Medal with and without war decoration

Interesting Facts:

- The medal was a part of a range of five decorations to honor service and support of the Red Cross. The awards are: The Service Star of the Red Cross, The Red Cross Decoration, first class, The Red Cross Officers Cross, The Red Cross Decoration, second class, The Red Cross Merit Medal in silver and the Red Cross Merit Medal Bronze.
- The awards without war decoration were given to recognize a donation to the Red Cross in support of the war effort.
 - ◊ Red Cross Silver Merit Medal donation = 300 krona or 100 Krona for three years and payment of a service fee of 20 Krona
 - ◊ Red Cross Bronze Merit Medal donation = 100 krona or 5 Krona a year for life and payment of a service fee of 10 Krona
- Emperor Franz Joseph was the Proprietor of the Red Cross and thus of the decorations and medals
- The requirement for a donation to receive these awards could be waived or suspended by the emperor
 - Applications for the Red Cross medals were to be submitted to the Red Cross Honor Medal Department
 - Silver medals with war decoration were commonly granted to nurses, care givers, those serving in the volunteer medical service and soldiers for rescue work.





Decorations

Red Cross Decoration

(Ehrenzeichen vom Roten Kreuz)

Interesting Facts (Continued):

- Medals were granted posthumously

Hallmarks:

- JS in an oval: this may be the hallmark of Johann Schwerdtner or Johan Souvall.
- The 1872-1922 900 fine silver hallmark
- Vienna Assay Office punch
- An **A** in a rectangle with a dot below the **A**: 1890-1921 Vienna assay office stamp.

Design: An oval medal suspended from an attached eye. The eye of the medal varies depending on whether it has the war decoration. Those without the war decoration have a stylized square eye while those with the war decoration have an oval eye.

Obverse:

- **Red Cross Merit Medal with war decoration:** Inside a raised rim is an enameled wreath composed of oak leaves on the viewers left and laurel on the right. The wreath is enameled dark green. The wreath is tied with a ribbon at the bottom and in two places on each side with an X shaped ribbon, which is also enameled green. Inside the wreath is a fine beaded line around the entire circumference of the medal. Inside the beaded line are two winged angels wearing vestments facing toward the center of the medal. Above the angels heads, in the center of the medal, is a five-pointed star with rays emanating from it in all directions. Between the angels and near their feet is a cloud. The angels hold between them a separately coined and attached white enameled Gothic shield on which is a red Geneva cross. Below the angels is the inscription **PATRIAE AC HVMANITATI** (Patriotism and Humanity). The bottom word **HVMANITATI** is curved. All of the elements inside of the war decoration are smaller than on the medals without the war wreath.
- **Red Cross Merit Medal:** Inside a raised rim is a fine beaded line around the circumference of the medal. Inside the beaded line are two angels facing toward the center of the medal. Above the angels heads in the center of the medal is a five-pointed star with rays emanating from it in all directions. Between the angels and near their feet is a cloud. The angels hold between them a separately coined and attached white enameled Gothic shield on which is a red Geneva cross. Below the angels is the inscription **PATRIAE AC HVMANITATI** (Patriotism and Humanity). The bottom word **HVMANITATI** is curved. All of the elements of the medal are larger than on the medals with the war wreath.

Silver Medal with War Decoration



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

Silver Medal



Image courtesy of Dorotheum





Decorations

Red Cross Decoration

(Ehrenzeichen vom Roten Kreuz)

Reverse:

- **Medal with War Decoration:** Inside a slightly raised rim is a wreath composed of oak on the viewers left and laurel on the right. The wreath is tied at the bottom and in two places on each side with an X shaped ribbon. The wreath is of the same metal as the decoration. Inside the wreath is a fine beaded line following its circumference. Inside the beaded line are the dates **1864** and **1914**, one above the other. The dates are in a smaller size than found on the medals without war decoration.



Bronze Medal with war decoration Silver Medal with war decoration

Reverse

- **Medal without War Decoration:** Inside a slightly raised rim is a fine beaded line. Inside the beaded line is a plain field on which is the date **1864** above the date **1914**.



Silver Medal

Bronze Medal

Image courtesy of Dorotheum





Decorations

Red Cross Decoration

(Ehrenzeichen vom Roten Kreuz)

Image courtesy of Dorotheum

Silver Medal with War Decoration



Weight:

- Silver Medal with war decoration: 28-31 grams
- Silver Medal: 26 –32.2 grams
- Bronze Medal with war decoration: 24-31 grams
- Bronze Medal: 22-27 grams

Size:

- The medals without war decoration are 44-49 mm tall and 35.1-36 mm wide. The medals are 3 mm thick. The attached Gothic shields are 1 mm thick.
- The medals with war decoration are 48-49.6 mm tall and 35-36.9 mm wide. The medals are 2.5 mm thick. The attached Gothic shields are 1 mm thick.

Type of Material:

- Matte Silver and enamel
- Matte Silver gilt bronze and enamel
- Bronze and enamel
- Bronze gilt and enamel
- Gilded war metal

Variations:

- Silver Medal Type I: a 900 fine silver medal as described above
- Silver Medal Type II: A silver gilt bronze medal as described above.
- Silver Medal Type III: A medal as described above except the reverse is plain. This was probably done to provide a space for a personal inscription
- Bronze Type I: A chocolate bronze medal as described above.
- Bronze Type II: A gold plated medal as described above.
- Bronze Type III: A light bronze medal as described above. All of the medals with war decoration seem to be of this type.

Designer: Unknown

Manufacturer:

- Hauptmunzamt Wien (Imperial Mint, Vienna)
- Johann Souval
- CF Rothe of Vienna
- Vince Mayer and Sons, Vienna

Number Issued:

- Silver Medal with war decoration = Unknown
- Silver Medal = 230
- Bronze Medal with war decoration = Unknown
- Bronze Medal = Unknown





Decorations

Red Cross Decoration

(Ehrenzeichen vom Roten Kreuz)



Type II Bronze Medal

Order of Precedence:

- Silver Medal, Number 70 after the War Cross for Civil Merit, forth class and before the 1898 Jubilee Medal for Household Personnel
- Bronze Medal, Number 80 after the Wound Medal and before the Home Guard Forty Year Long Service Medal





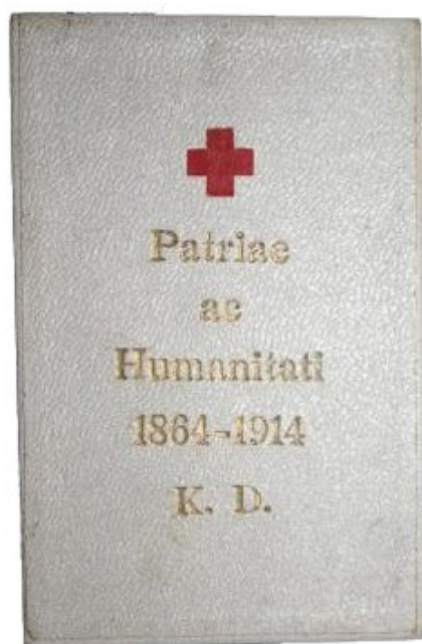
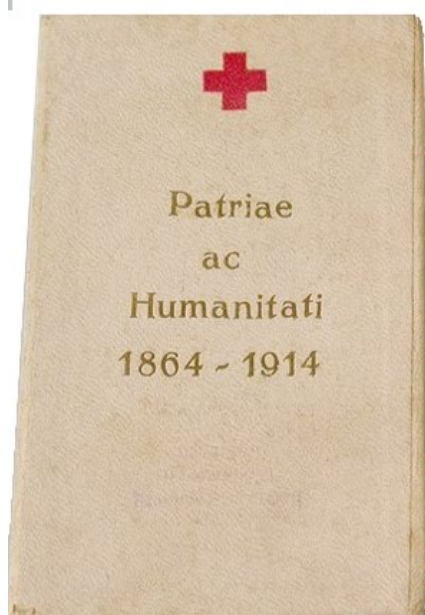
Decorations

Red Cross Decoration

(Ehrenzeichen vom Roten Kreuz)

Case: Cases are white and come in two shapes: Rectangular for awards on tri-fold ribbons and square for the awards on bows.

- The case for awards on tri-fold ribbons is a rectangular white box with a red cross and gold or silver inscription on the top. The inscription reads **PATRIA / AC / HUMANITATI / 1864-1914 / (K.D.)** The interior of the box is fitted. The top liner is in white satin or white cardboard and often has the makers' logo. The interior or bottom is white fitted plush or white cardboard. The outside of the bottom of the box may have the makers name and address in ink.





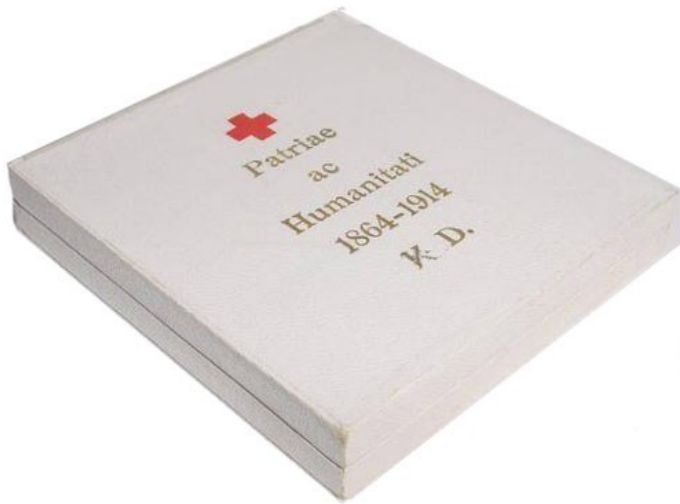
Decorations

Red Cross Decoration

(Ehrenzeichen vom Roten Kreuz)

Case (continued): Square for the awards on bows.

- A square white box with a red cross and gold or silver inscription on the top. The inscription reads **PA-TRIA / AC / HUMANITATI / 1864-1914 / (K.D.)** The interior of the box is fitted. The top liner is in white satin with the maker's name in gold letters and the bottom is white fitted plush. The bottom of the box may have the makers name and address in ink.





Decorations

Red Cross Decoration

(Ehrenzeichen vom Roten Kreuz)

Case (continued):

- A white paper envelope with an inscription on the front. The inscription reads **PATRIA / AC / HUMANITATI / 1864-1914 / K.D.** These envelopes were used to issue official awards of the Red Cross Merit Medals; the inscription will vary slightly with regard to whether the medal is with or without war decoration





Decorations

Red Cross Decoration

(Ehrenzeichen vom Roten Kreuz)



Ribbon: The basic ribbon design is a 38 mm wide white ribbon with two 3 mm carmen-red side stripes 2.5 mm apart and 2.5 mm from the edge. It was worn as a tri-fold ribbon by men and as a bow by women; it also was worn as a fine bow by civilians. A small rectangular ribbon issued with small attachments to indicate specific awards was introduced in October 27, 1917.





Decorations

Red Cross Decoration

(Ehrenzeichen vom Roten Kreuz)

Attachments: None

Miniature: Those for the silver medals exist in various sizes including 23 X 16 mm and 21 X 16 mm. All of the silver miniatures have been hallmarked on the ring. Hallmarks noted include:

- The 1872-1922 900 fine silver hallmark
- The letters VM in a rectangle, which is the mark of Vinc Mayor and sons



Image courtesy of Dorotheum



A group of 8 awards to an officer including the bronze Red Cross medal with war decoration



Image curtesy of Dorotheum





Decorations
Red Cross Decoration
(Ehrenzeichen vom Roten Kreuz)



**The Award Certificate for the
Red Cross Silver Merit Medal with War Decoration**





Decorations

Red Cross Decoration

(Ehrenzeichen vom Roten Kreuz)

Some notable recipients:

- Archduchess Maria Annunziata: Silver Medal with war decoration
- Archduke Franz Salvator: Silver Medal
- Archduchess Marie Therese: Silver Medal
- General of Infantry Artur Baron von Bolfras: Silver Medal with war decoration

First male and female recipients of the medals with war decoration October 29, 1914

- Acting Wachtmeister Josef Maximov in Zeljine: Silver Medal with war decoration
- Midwife Anna Colakovac in Vlasenica: Silver Medal with war decoration
- Farm Servant Marca Balosch in Zelijne: Bronze Medal with war decoration
- Finance Advisor Lady Barica Cacic in Vlasenica: Bronze Medal with war decoration



Archduke Franz Salvator





Decorations
Red Cross Decoration
(Ehrenzeichen vom Roten Kreuz)



An Austrian Meister 1st Class wearing the Red Cross Silver Honor Medal with war decoration

An Austrian Vizewachtmeister wearing the Red Cross Silver Honor Medal





Decorations
Bravery Medal
1849-1859
(Tapferkeitsmedaille)



Date Issued: June 5, 1849-June 5, 1859

Reason Issued: The gold and silver first class medals were to reward bravery by non-commissioned officers and enlisted men in the face of an armed enemy. While the silver medal second class was given not only for the reasons cited above but also for exceptional courage and commitment in peacetime.

Classes or Types: This decoration was issued in three classes

- Gold Bravery Medal
- Silver Bravery Medal, first class
- Silver Bravery Medal, second class

Interesting Facts: These decorations and the bravery medals struck in the reign of Emperor Ferdinand were both issued for the War with Sardinia and for the suppression of the Hungarian Revolt.

- On June 5, 1849 the Emperor Franz Joseph I declared that all grades of the bravery medal could be worn at the same time.
- Officers who had won the medal as Non-commissioned Officers or enlisted men were allowed to continue wearing the medal when they became an officer.
- The gold bravery medal was the highest award for bravery for non-commissioned officers and enlisted personnel
- From 1789 to 1918 there were 30 different versions of the bravery medal. These are versions 12, 13 and 14
- This decoration in all of its variations was up to the issuance of the Karl Troop Cross in 1916 the most issued decoration in the armed forces

Hallmarks: None known

Design: A round medal with a 3 mm vertical extension and a flat oval coined suspension ring at the top





Decorations
Bravery Medal
1849-1859
(Tapferkeitsmedaille)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

Obverse: A bust of the youthful Emperor Franz Joseph I facing to the viewers left. He is wearing a Field Marshal uniform decorated with the Order of the Golden Fleece and the grand cordon and star of the Military Maria Theresia Order. Above the bust is inscribed: **FRANZ JOSEPH I. KAISER VON OESTERREICH**. Translation: Franz Joseph I Emperor of Austria. Below the shoulder of the bust is the name of the designer, **K. LANG**

Reverse: Within a laurel wreath, tied at the bottom with a bow and superimposed over two crossed flags and a standard. On the flags is the Austro-Hungarian coat of arms. Within the wreath is a two-line inscription: **DER / TAPFERKEIT** (For Bravery).

Weight:

- Gold Bravery Medal: 8 Ducats (28 grams)
- Silver Bravery Medal, first class: 17 grams
- Silver Bravery Medal, second class: 17 grams

Size:

- Gold Bravery Medal: 40 mm in diameter.
- Silver Bravery Medal, first class: 40 mm in diameter.
- Silver Bravery Medal, second class: 30-31 mm in diameter but thicker than the gold and silver bravery medals.

Type of Material: 986 fine Gold and Silver

Variations:

- Type I: A medal as described above.
- Type II: A bravery medal 2nd class as described above but 28 mm in diameter

Designer: Konrad Lange

Manufacturer: The Vienna Hauptmunzamt (Imperial Mint, Vienna)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum





Decorations

Bravery Medal

1849-1859

(Tapferkeitsmedaille)



Number Issued:

- Gold Medals
 - 1849 = 275 (of which 11 were awarded to foreigners)
 - 1859 = 156 (of which 1 was awarded to a foreigner)
 - 1861 = 2
 - 1864 = 25 (of which 10 were awarded to foreigners)
 - 1865 = 1
 - 1866 = 128 (of which 22 were awarded to foreigners)
 - 1869 = 7
 - 1871 = 10, all of which were to foreigners
 - 1878 = 26
 - 1882 = 5
 - 1901 = 5 (of which 2 were awarded to foreigners)
 - Total gold medals issued = 640
 - Total gold medals issued from 1789 to 1901 = 1, 923 of which 60 were to foreigners

- Silver Medal first class: Unknown
- Silver Medal second class: Unknown

Case: Unknown

Ribbon: A 38 to 42 mm wide crimson and white laddered war ribbon worn as a straight or tri-fold ribbon and exclusively as a tri-fold ribbon after 1861. The straight ribbon was worn suspended from a button hole and the tri-fold ribbon on the left side of the chest

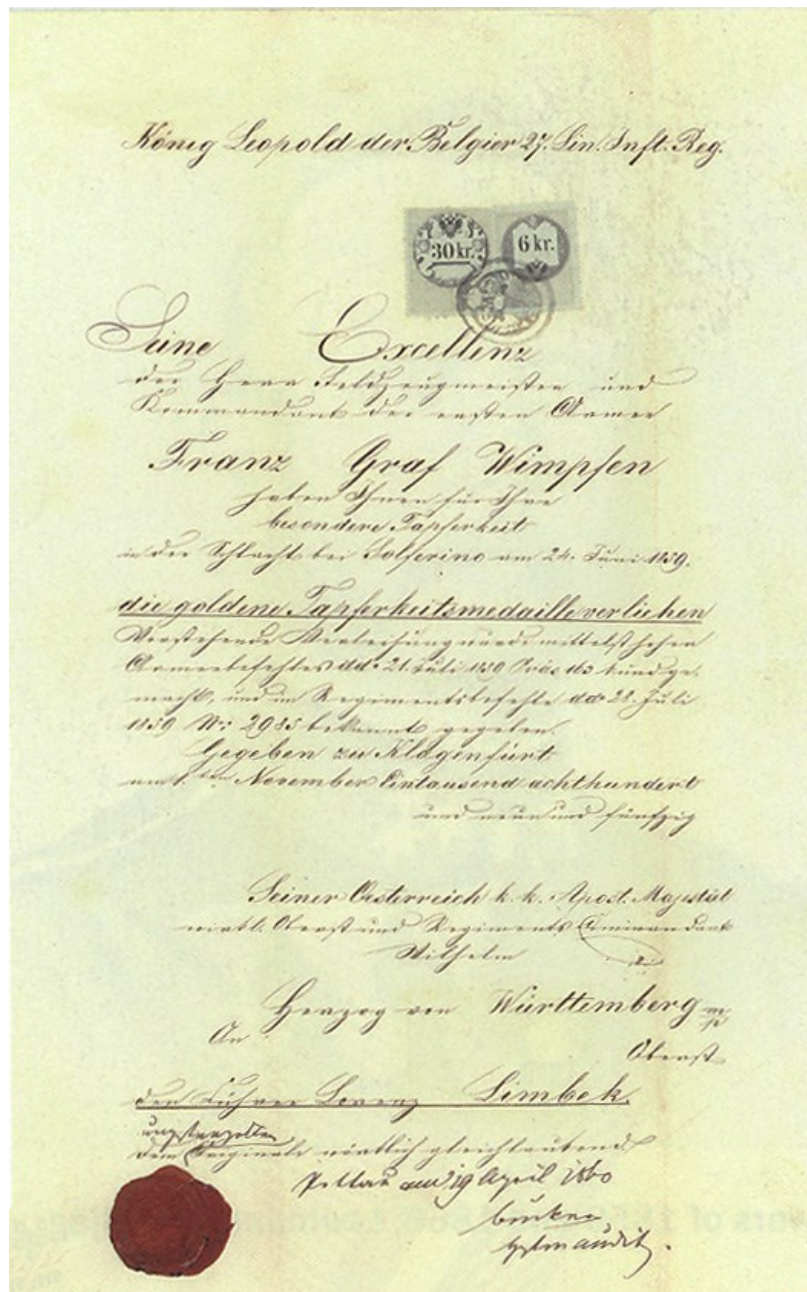
Attachments: A rectangular gold clasp bearing the obverse of the gold bravery medal with the image of the emperor facing to the viewers left. These clasps were unofficial and were worn based on the personal preference of the recipient. The clasp was not to be worn without the medal.

Miniature: Miniatures of this decoration exist. They are 15 mm in diameter and weigh 1.9 grams.





Decorations
Bravery Medal
1849-1859
(Tapferkeitsmedaille)



Gold Bravery Medal Certificate from 1859

Image courtesy of Dorotheum





Decorations
Bravery Medal
1849-1859
(Tapferkeitsmedaille)



Johann reitag Wearing the 1849 Gold Bravery Medal

Image attributed to Fotitudini Der Tapferkeit, G. Ludwigstorff,
W.A. Schwarz, J.Stolzer





Decorations
Bravery Medal
1859-1866
(Tapferkeitsmedaille)



Date Issued: June 5, 1859 -1866

Reason Issued: The gold and silver first class medals were to reward bravery by Non-commissioned officers and enlisted men in the face of an armed enemy. While the silver medal second class was given not only for the reasons cited above but also for exceptional courage and commitment in peacetime. Medals could be awarded to members of allied forces.

Classes or Types: This decoration was issued in three classes

- Gold Bravery Medal
- Silver Bravery Medal, first class
- Silver Bravery Medal, second class

Interesting Facts:

- On June 5, 1849 the Emperor Franz Joseph I declared that all grades of the bravery medal could be worn at the same time.
- Officers who had won the medal as Non-commissioned officers or enlisted men were allowed to continue wearing the medal when they became an officer.
- The gold bravery medal was the highest award for bravery for non-commissioned officers and enlisted personnel
- This medal was struck in 1859 when the stock of the medals struck in 1849 were exhausted. They were initially awarded for service in the conflict in Lombardy in 1859 against the Sardinians and the French. They were also awarded during the war with Denmark in 1866.
- From 1789 to 1918 there were 30 different versions of the bravery medal. These are versions 15, 16 and 17
- This decoration in all of its variations was up to the issuance of the Karl Troop Cross in 1916 the most issued decoration in the armed forces

Hallmarks: None known

Design: A round medal with a 3mm vertical attachment with a flat oval coined suspension ring at the top





Decorations
Bravery Medal
1859-1866
(Tapferkeitsmedaille)



Images courtesy of Dorotheum

Obverse: A bust of Emperor Franz Joseph I corresponding to his age at the time with mustache and side burns facing to the viewers left. He is wearing a Field Marshal uniform decorated with the Order of the Golden Fleece and the grand cordon and star of the Maria Theresia Order. Above the bust is inscribed: **FRANZ JOSEPH I. V. G. G. KAISER V. OESTERREICH**. Translation: Franz Joseph I with the grace of God Emperor of Austria. Below the bust of the emperor is the name of the designer, **J.D. Boehm**

Reverse: Within a laurel wreath, tied at the bottom with a bow and superimposed over two crossed flags and a standard. On the flags is the Austro-Hungarian coat of arms. Within the wreath is a two-line inscription: **DER / TAPFERKEIT** (For Bravery).

Weight:

- Gold Bravery Medal: 8 Ducats (28 grams)
- Silver Bravery Medal, first class: 17 grams
- Silver Bravery Medal, second class: 17 grams

Size:

- Gold Bravery Medal: 40 mm in diameter.
- Silver Bravery Medal, first class: 40 mm in diameter.
- Silver Bravery Medal, second class: 30 mm in diameter but thicker than the gold and silver bravery medals.

Type of Material:

- 986 fine Gold
- Silver

Variations: None known.

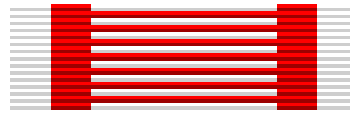
Designer: Joseph Daniel Bohm

Manufacturer: Hauptmünzamt Wien (Imperial Mint Vienna)





Decorations
Bravery Medal
1859-1866
(Tapferkeitsmedaille)



Number Issued: Unknown

- It is known that a total of 2,007 Gold Bravery Medals Were Issued from 1789-1914

Case: Unknown

Ribbon: A 38 to 42 mm wide crimson and white laddered war ribbon worn as a straight or tri-fold ribbon and exclusively as a tri-fold ribbon after 1861. The straight ribbon was worn suspended from a button hole and the tri-fold ribbon on the left side of the chest

Attachments: None

Miniature: Miniatures of this decoration exist. They are 15.9 mm in diameter and weigh 2.3 grams.





Decorations
Bravery Medal
1859-1866
(Tapferkeitsmedaille)



Vizewachmeister Johann Uray wearing the 1859 Gold Bravery Medal





Decorations
Bravery Medal
1866-1915
(Tapferkeitsmedaille)



Date Issued: 1866 - February 14, 1915

Reason Issued: The gold medal and first class silver medal were issued to reward bravery by non-commissioned officers and enlisted men in the face of an armed enemy. While the silver medal second class was given until 1914 not only for the reasons cited above but also for exceptional courage and commitment in peacetime.

Classes or Types: This decoration was issued in three classes

- Gold Bravery Medal
- Silver Bravery Medal, first class
- Silver Bravery Medal, second class

Interesting Facts:

- On June 5, 1849 the Emperor Franz Joseph I declared that all grades of the bravery medal could be worn at the same time.
- Officers who had won the medal as non-commissioned officers or enlisted men were allowed to continue wearing the medal when they became an officer.
- The gold bravery medal was the highest award for bravery for non-commissioned officers and enlisted personnel
- From 1789 to 1918 there were 30 different versions of the bravery medal. This is versions 18, 19 and 20
- This decoration in all of its variations was up to the issuance of the Karl Troop Cross in 1916 the most issued decoration in the armed forces
- After August 19, 1914 a pension as follows was awarded along with the medal:

Gold Bravery Medal = 30 Kronen per month

Silver Bravery Medal, first class = 15 Kronen per month

Silver Bravery Medal, second class = 7.50 Kronen month





Decorations

Bravery Medal

1866-1915
(Tapferkeitsmedaille)

Picture from Pinterest



Picture courtesy of Dorotheum



Hallmarks:

- The mark of the Vienna Mint is often found on the rim of the medals in the one o'clock position
- The word **Bronze** found on the edge of some medals

Design:

- Prior to February 14, 1915 a round medal with a 3mm vertical attachment with a flat oval coined suspension ring at the top
- From February 14, 1915 on a round medal with a flat round suspension eye at the top of the medal

Obverse: A bust of an older fully bearded Emperor Franz Joseph I in a Field Marshal's uniform, facing to the viewers right, with the Order of the Golden Fleece and the grand cordon of the Order of Maria Theresia. Above the bust is inscribed: **FRANZ JOSEPH I. V. G. G. KAISER V. OESTERREICH**. Translation: Franz Joseph I with the grace of God Emperor of Austria. Below the bust of the emperor is the designer's name. For the gold and silver medal, first class the name is **LEISEK**. For the Silver Medal, second class the name is **TAUTENHAYN**.

Reverse: Within a laurel wreath, tied at the bottom with a bow and superimposed over two crossed flags and a standard. On the flags is the Austro-Hungarian coat of arms. Within the wreath is a two-line inscription: **DER / TAPFERKEIT** (For Bravery).

Weight:

- Gold Bravery Medal: 8 Ducats (28 grams)
- Gold Medal, bronze gilt: 20.2 grams
- Silver Bravery Medal, first class: 17 grams
 - Silver Bravery Medal, first class, bronze gilt: 17 grams
 - Silver Bravery Medal, first class, version with no medalist signature: 17.6 grams
- Silver Bravery Medal, second class: 17 grams



Image courtesy of Dorotheum





Decorations
Bravery Medal
1866-1915
(Tapferkeitsmedaille)

**An Austrian Gefreiter
wearing the Gold,
Silver First class and
Silver second class
Bravery Medals**



Size:

- Gold Bravery Medal: 40 mm in diameter.
- Silver Bravery Medal, first class: 40 mm in diameter.
- Silver Bravery Medal, second class: 30-31 mm in diameter but thicker than the gold and silver bravery medals

Type of Material: Gold, silver and bronze gilt

Variations:

- Type I: Gold Bravery Medal as described above
- Type II: Gold Bravery Medal in bronze gilt
- Type III: Medals as described above except that the medals have a ball shaped suspension eye (this style suspension was introduced in February 14, 1915)
- Type I: Silver Bravery Medal, first class as described above
- Type II: Silver Bravery Medal, first class in bronze gilt
- Type III: Silver Bravery Medal, first class without medalist signature
- Type IV: Silver Bravery Medal, first class as described above except that the medals have a ball shaped suspension eye (this style suspension was introduced in February 14, 1915).





Decorations Bravery Medal 1866-1915 (Tapferkeitsmedaille)



Designer:

- Gold Medal and Silver Medal first class, Friderich Leisek
- Silver Medal Second class, Josef Tautenhayn

Manufacturer: The Vienna Hauptmunzamt (Imperial Vienna Mint)

Number Issued: Unknown

- It is known that a total of 2,007 Gold Bravery Medals Were Issued from 1789-1914



Case: A red simulated leather case which sometimes has the name of the decoration in silver or gold embossed on the lid. The inside of the lid is in white silk and often has a maker's logo in gold. The inner portion of the bottom of the case is in black fitted velvet.

Ribbon: A 38 to 42 mm wide crimson and white-laddered war ribbon worn as a tri-fold ribbon. The tri-fold ribbon was worn on the left side of the chest

Attachments: None

Miniature: Miniatures for this decoration exist.

- The gold miniatures are 17 mm in diameter and weighs 3.2 grams
- The silver miniatures are 18 mm in diameter and weighs 3 grams





Decorations
Bravery Medal
1915-1917
(Tapferkeitsmedaille)



Date Issued: February 14, 1915–April 4, 1917

Reason Issued: This medal was issued to reward bravery by non-commissioned officers and enlisted men in the face of an armed enemy. After November 1915 it could also be awarded to civilians including women.

Classes or Types: This decoration which had previously been issued in three classes was now issued in four classes with the addition of the Bronze Bravery Medal introduced on February 14, 1915

- Gold Bravery Medal, 1866 - April 4, 1917
- Silver Bravery Medal, first class, 1866 - April 4, 1917
- Silver Bravery Medal, second class, 1866 - April 4, 1917
- Bronze Bravery Medal, February 14, 1915– April 4, 1917

Interesting Facts:

- On June 5, 1849 the Emperor Franz Joseph I declared that all grades of the bravery medal could be worn at the same time.
- Officers who had won the medal as non-commissioned officers or enlisted men were allowed to continue wearing the medal when they became an officer.
- In 1898 Gold and Silver Medal 1st class recipients were to receive an annuity for life
- After August 19, 1914 pension as follows was awarded along with the medal:
 - ◊ Gold Bravery Medal = 30 Kronen per month
 - ◊ Silver Bravery Medal, first class = 15 Kronen per month
 - ◊ Silver Bravery Medal, second class = 7 Kronen and 50 Heller per month
- From 1789 to 1918 there were 30 different versions of the bravery medal. These are versions 21, 22, 23 and 24

- This decoration in all of its variations was up to the issuance of the Karl Troop Cross in 1916 the most issued decoration in the armed forces





Decorations
Bravery Medal
1915-1917
(Tapferkeitsmedaille)



Interesting Facts (continued)

- The person decorated with the most bravery medals was the Non-commissioned officer Feldpilot Offizierstellvertreter Julius Arigi. He was awarded the Gold Bravery Medal four times, The Silver Bravery Medal 1st class four times and both the Silver Bravery Medal 2nd class and the Bronze Bravery Medal two times.
- There were 18 persons awarded the gold bravery medal twice and six persons awarded the Gold Bravery Medal three times. Among the three time winners were the Austro-Hungarian flyers Eugen Bonsch, Stefan Fejes and Friedrich Hefty. There were also two persons awarded the gold medal four times, the aforementioned Julius Arigi and Kurt Gruber, both air service personnel.
- There were 17 persons awarded the Silver Bravery Medal first class three times. Among the three time winners were the Austro-Hungarian flyers Ferdinand Udvardy, Karl Urban and Franz Wognar
- The Bravery Medal after November of 1915 was authorized for award to women. There were at least two female recipients of the Bravery Medal second class. They were Officer Aspirant Helene Stepaniwna and Feldwebel-Kadettaspiarant Sophie Haleczka.
- Those receiving the Gold Bravery Medal were to be transferred from the front to protect them from further risk. Pilots and Submarine personnel were exempted from this policy
- The Gold Bravery Medal was the recommended award for saving the life of a commanding officer
- The Bronze Bravery Medal was originally composed of 50% copper and 50% cannon bronze
- The Bronze Bravery Medal was the only one of the bravery medals that could be awarded to non-commissioned officers and enlisted troops of forces allied with Austria in WWI

Hallmarks:

- The mark of the Vienna Mint is often found on the rim of the medals in the one o'clock position
- The word BRONZE is found on some gold medals
 - **HMA UNECHT and KB NEMVALODI** on base metal awards

Design: A round medal with a ball shaped suspension at the top of the medal





Decorations
Bravery Medal
1915-1917
(Tapferkeitsmedaille)



Obverse: A bust of an older fully bearded Emperor Franz Joseph I, facing to the viewers right, in a marshals uniform with the Order of the Golden Fleece and the grand cordon of the Order of Maria Theresia. Above the bust is inscribed: **FRANZ JOSEPH I. V. G. G. KAISER V. OESTERREICH**. Translation: Franz Joseph I with the grace of God Emperor of Austria. Below the bust of the emperor is the designer's name. For the gold and silver medal, first class this is **LEISEK**. For the Silver Medal, second class and the bronze medal the name is **TAUTENHAYN**.

Reverse: Within a laurel wreath, tied at the bottom with a bow and superimposed over two crossed flags with the Austro-Hungarian coat of arms and a standard is a two-line inscription: **DER / TAPFERKEIT** (For Bravery).

Weight:

- Gold Bravery Medal: 8 Ducats (28 grams)
- Gold Medal, Bronze Gilt: 20.2 grams
- Silver Bravery Medal, first class: 17 grams
- Silver Bravery Medal, first class, bronze gilt: 17.6 grams
- Silver Bravery Medal, first class, no medalist signature: 17.6 grams
- Silver Bravery Medal, first class, war metal: unknown
- Silver Bravery Medal, second class: 17 grams
- Silver Bravery Medal, second class, war metal: unknown
- Bronze Bravery Medal: 15.4 grams
- Bronze Bravery Medal in war metal: 12.5 grams





Decorations
Bravery Medal
1915-1917
(Tapferkeitsmedaille)

Size:

- Gold Bravery Medal: 40 mm in diameter.
- Silver Bravery Medal, first class: 40 mm in diameter.
- Silver Bravery Medal, second class: 30-31 mm in diameter but thicker than the silver bravery medals, first class
- Bronze Bravery Medal: 30-31 mm in diameter
- Bronze Bravery Medal in war metal: 30-31 mm in diameter

Type of Material: Gold, Silver, Bronze (50% copper and 50% cannon bronze) and war metal

Variations:

- Type I Gold and Silver medals as described above
- Type II gold medal as described above but with the spade shaped suspension eye as found on the 1866-1914 gold medal
- Type II Gold and silver medals as described above in bronze gilt
- Bronze medal type I as described above but with a wedge shaped suspension eye
- Bronze medal type II as described above but with ball shaped suspension eye
- Type III Medals as described above in war metal with no medalist signature (may be copies)

Designer:

- Gold Medal and Silver Medal first class, Friderich Leisek
- Silver Medal Second class, Josef Tautenhayn
- Bronze Bravery Medal, Josef Tautenhayn

Manufacturer: The Vienna Hauptmunzamt (Imperial Vienna Mint)

Number Issued: The number of bravery medals issued from the commencement of World War I to the end of 1918 were:

- Gold Medals = 3,700
- Silver Medal first class = 143,000
- Silver Medal, second class = 384,000

Bronze Medal = 950,000

Note: These numbers include the medals issued with Franz Joseph's image and that of Emperor Karl

- There were 8 gold medals issued to German navy submarine officers in 1915 (this was done counter to the regulations)
- There were 194 Gold Bravery Medals issued to Austro-Hungarian flight personnel of which 51 were the 1915-1917 type medals with the image of Emperor Franz Joseph on the obverse.

Order of Precedence:

- Gold Medal, Number 37 after the Bronze Military Merit Medal (Signum Laudis) and before the Gold Merit Cross with Crown
- Silver Medal First Class, Number 43 After the Gold Merit Cross and before the Silver Bravery Medal, Second Class
- Silver Medal Second Class, Number 44 after the Silver Bravery Medal First Class and before the Bronze Bravery Medal
- Bronze Medal, Number 45 after the Silver Bravery Medal Second Class and before the Elizabeth Medal





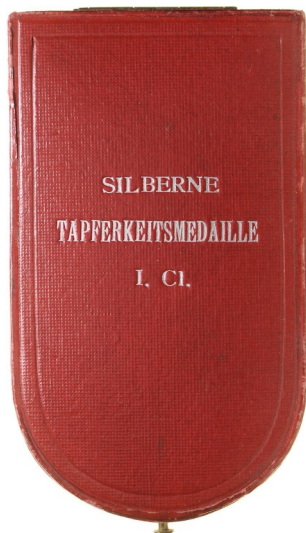
Decorations

Bravery Medal

1915-1917

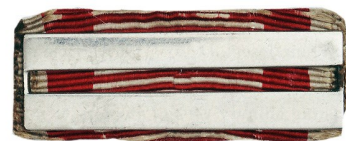
(Tapferkeitsmedaille)

Case: A red simulated leather case which sometimes has the name of the decoration in silver or gold embossed on the lid. The inside of the lid is in white silk and often has a maker's logo in gold. The inner portion of the bottom of the case is in fitted black velvet.



Ribbon:

- A 38 to 42 mm wide crimson and white-laddered war ribbon worn as a tri-fold ribbon. The tri-fold ribbon was worn on the left side of the chest
- A small rectangular ribbon for this decoration sometimes issued with small attachments to indicate specific awards. This ribbon was introduced in October 27, 1917.





Decorations Bravery Medal 1915-1917 (Tapferkeitsmedaille)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

Attachments: Stainless steel trapezoid shaped bars were introduced on November 29, 1915 to designate repeat award of the bravery medals. The bars came as a single bar, or as two or three bars one above the other. Johann Zimmler of Vienna was the manufacturer of these bars.

- Second award: a bar 50 mm in length (top edge) and 8 mm wide
- Third award: two bars: the first bar is 50 mm in length at the top edge and the second bar is 40 mm in length (top edge) with both bars being 8 mm wide (Bars are spaced 20 mm apart)
- Fourth award: three bars: the first bar is 50 mm in length at the top edge, the second bar is 40 mm in length (top edge) and the third bar is 30 mm in length with all bars being 8 mm wide (Bars are spaced 20 mm apart) There were two, four time winners of the gold bravery medal
- Occasionally the bars are inscribed although this was unofficial





Decorations Bravery Medal 1915-1917 (Tapferkeitsmedaille)



Julius Arigi, Austro-Hungarian Ace, winner of the Gold Bravery Medal with 3 bars, the Silver Bravery Medal, first class with three bars and the Silver Bravery Medal second class and Bronze Bravery medals with two bars



The recipients of the Gold Medal with fourth award bare were:

- Julius Arigi, Offiziersstellvertreter, FliK 6
- Kurt Gruber, Offiziersstellvertreter, FliK 60

The recipients of the Gold Medal with third award bare: There were six, three time winners of the gold bravery medal two of whom won their first medal prior to the death of the emperor Franz Joseph and thus wore their bars on the 1915 version of the medal. They were:

- Josef Kiss, Stabsfeldwebel, 72nd Infantry Regiment attached to FliK 55
- Franz Rybicki, Reserve-Offiziersstellvertreter, 20th Landwehr Schützen Regiment

There were 32, two-time winners of the gold bravery medal 13 of whom won their first medal prior to the death of emperor Franz Joseph and thus wore their bars on the 1915 version of the medal. These recipients of the Gold Medal with second award bare were:

- Ernst Binder, Feldwebel, 20th Honved Infantry Regiment
- Andreas Durrbacher, Offiziersstellvertreter, 6th infantry Regiment
- Johann Franek, Offiziersstellvertreter, 20th Landwehr Schützen Regiment
- Johann Fritsch Ritter von Cronenwald, See-Fahnrich, Seeflugstation Pola
- Hasan Karadic, Stabsfeldwebel, Bohemian Field Jaeger Battalion 6
- Adolf Kind, Feldwebel, FliK 7
- Julius Kowalczyk, Feldwebel, FliK 24
- Franz Michl, Reserve-offiziersstellvertreter, 35th infantry Regiment
- Walter Mikosch, Fahnrich der Reserve, 3rd Tyrolean Kaiser Jaegers
- Dragutin Petaj, Offiziersstellvertreter, 25th Honved Infantry Regiment
 - Gottfried Russ, Offiziersstellvertreter, FliK 7
 - Josef Siegel, Reserve-offiziersstellvertreter, FliK 6
 - Karl Tomaides, Feldwebel, 21st Landwehr Infantry Regiment





Decorations
Bravery Medal
1915-1917
(Tapferkeitsmedaille)



Miniature: Miniatures for this decoration exist.

- The gold miniatures are 17 mm in diameter and weigh 3.2 grams
- The silver miniatures are 18 mm in diameter and weigh 3 grams
- The bronze miniatures are 17.6 mm in diameter and weigh 1.7 grams



Miniature group on chain with silver and bronze bravery medals





Decorations
Bravery Medal
1915-1917
(Tapferkeitsmedaille)

Groups with bravery medals





Decorations
Bravery Medal
1915-1917
(Tapferkeitsmedaille)



An Austrian Gefreiter wearing all four Bravery Medals





Decorations
Bravery Medal
1917-1922
(Tapferkeitsmedaille)



Date Issued: April 4, 1917– 1931

Reason Issued: All medals were issued to reward bravery by non-commissioned officers and enlisted men in the face of an armed enemy.

Classes or Types: This decoration was issued in four classes

- Gold Bravery Medal
- Silver Bravery Medal, first class
- Silver Bravery Medal, second class
- Bronze Bravery Medal

Interesting Facts:

- All classes of the bravery medal could be worn at the same time.
- Officers who had won the medal as non-commissioned officers or enlisted men were allowed to continue wearing the medal when they became an officer.
- After August 19, 1914 pension as follows was awarded along with the medal:
 - ◊ Gold Bravery Medal = 30 Kronen per month
 - ◊ Silver Bravery Medal, first class = 15 Kronen per month
 - ◊ Silver Bravery Medal, second class = 7 Kronen and 50 Heller per month
- The most decorated non-commissioned officer was Feldpilot Offizierstellvertreter Julius Arigi. He was awarded the Golden Bravery Medal four times, The Silver Bravery Medal 1st class four times and both the Silver Bravery Medal 2nd class and the Bronze Bravery Medal two times.
 - There were 18 persons awarded the Gold Bravery Medal twice and six persons awarded the Gold Bravery Medal three times. Among the three time winners were the Austro-Hungarian flyers Eugen Bonsch, Stefen Fejes and Freidrich Hefty.





Decorations

Bravery Medal

1917-1922

(Tapferkeitsmedaille)



PImage courtesy of Dorotheum

Interesting Facts (continued)

- There were 17 persons awarded the Silver Bravery Medal first class three times. Among the three time winners were the Austro-Hungarian flyers Ferdinand Udvardy, Karl Urban and Franz Wognar
- There were at least two female recipients of the Bravery Medal second class. They were Officer Aspirant Helene Stepaniwna and Feldwebel-Kadettaspiarant Sophie Haleczka.
- Recipients of the Gold Bravery Medal were to be transferred from the front to protect them.
- The Gold Bravery Medal was the recommended award for saving the life of a commanding officer
- The Bronze Bravery Medal was originally composed of 50% copper and 50% cannon bronze
- Beginning in 1918 these medals were issued in war metal. It was intended to replace them after the war with awards in the proper metals
- Foreign enlisted personnel were eligible to receive the bronze medal
- Medals could be retained by the wife of the recipient upon his death. Non-married recipients medals were to be returned
- It was not necessary to win a lower bravery medal to receive a higher award of the bravery medal
- From 1789 to 1918 there were 30 different versions of the bravery medal. These are versions 25, 26, 27 and 28
- This decoration in all of its variations was up to the issuance of the Karl Troop Cross in 1916 the most issued decoration in the armed forces
- The last recipient of an Austrian Bravery Medal died in 2002.





Decorations

Bravery Medal

1917-1922

(Tapferkeitsmedaille)



Hallmarks:

- The mark of the city Vienna Mint is often found on the rim of the medals in the one o'clock position
- The word BRONZE is found on the rim of some late war issue gold and silver medals issued by the War Ministry
- The word ZINK is found on the rim of some late war issue silver medals
- HMA UNECHT (Minted by the Vienna Mint in base metal) is found on some gold and silver medals
- NEM VALODI (Minted in Hungary in base metal) is found on some gold and silver medals
- The 800 fine small article silver hallmark (the head of a hound and the number 3 and letter A)

Design: A round medal with a spherical ball shaped eye for the gold medal and silver medal 1st class and a wedge shaped eye for the silver medal 2nd class and the bronze medal.

Obverse: A bust of the Emperor Karl facing to the viewers right in a marshals uniform with the Order of the Golden Fleece and the grand cordon of the Order of Maria Theresia. Above the bust is inscribed: **CAROLVS D.G. IMP AVST. REX BOH. ETC ET REX APOST HVNG.** Translation: Karl with the grace of God Emperor of Austria, King of Bohemia Etc. and Apostolic King of Hungary. Below the shoulder of the bust of the emperor is the designer's name **KAUTSCH**. For some privately manufactured gold medals the name is **Petzl**.

Reverse: A Laurel Wreath tied at the bottom with a flying ribbon, the bottom of which rests on a group of four crossed flags and two standards with zig-zag lines to indicate the colors black, yellow, red, white and green. Partially hidden by the leaves of the wreath there appears on the right foremost flag, half of the Austrian, and on the corresponding flag on the left, half the Hungarian large coat of arms of the Dual Monarchy. In the field in the center is "**FORTITVDINI**" (Bravery).

Weight:

- Gold Bravery Medal: 8 Ducats (28 grams)
- Gold Medal, Bronze Gilt: 17.8 grams
- Silver Bravery Medal, first class: 17 grams
- Silver Bravery Medal, first class, bronze gilt: 17 grams
- Silver Bravery Medal, first class, war metal: Unknown
- Silver Bravery Medal, second class: 17 grams
- Silver Bravery Medal, second class, war metal: Unknown
- Bronze Bravery Medal: 15.4 grams
- Bronze Bravery Medal in war metal: 12.5 grams

Size:

- Gold Bravery Medal: 40 mm in diameter
 - Gold Bravery Metal, bronze gilt: 40 mm in diameter
 - Silver Bravery Medal, first class: 40 mm in diameter.
 - Silver Bravery Medal, second class: 30-31 mm in diameter
 - Bronze Bravery Medal: 30-31 mm in diameter



Image courtesy of Dorotheum





Decorations

Bravery Medal

1917-1922

(Tapferkeitsmedaille)

Type of Material: .986 fine Gold until 1917, Gilt bronze after 1917, silver, silver gilt, bronze and war metal

Variations:

- Type I Gold Medal: As described above
- Type II Gold Medal: As described above except in bronze gilt.
- Type III Gold Medal: A medal the same as Types I and II except the makers name on the obverse is Petzl
- Type IV Gold Medal and Type II Silver Medal, first class: A medal as described above except it has a flat spade shaped eye.
- Type I Silver Medal, first class: A medal as described above
- Type II Silver Medal, first class: A medal the same as Type I except it is bronze gilt.
- Type III Silver Medal, first class: The same as type III except it has a wire loop eye.
- Type I Silver Medal, second class: A medal as described above
- Type II Silver Medal, second class: A medal as described above except it has a small wedge shaped eye.
- Type III Silver Medal, second class: A medal the same as type I and II except it is bronze gilt.
- Type IV Silver Medal, second class: A medal the same as Type II except it is made of war metal.
- Type I Bronze Medal: As described above
- Type II Bronze Medal: The same as Type I except with a dedication engraved on the rim

Designer:

- Heinrich Kautsch
- F. Petzel

Manufacturer:

- The Vienna Hauptmünzamt (Imperial Vienna Mint)
- The Hungarian mint to Kremnitz

Number Issued: The number of bravery medals issued from the commencement of World War I to the end of 1918 were:

- Gold medals = 4,738
- Silver Medal first class = 143,000
- Silver medal second class = 384,000
- Bronze medals = 950,000

It should be noted that these numbers include the medals issued with Franz Joseph's image and that of Emperor Karl

- There were 194 Gold Bravery Medals issued to Austro-Hungarian flight personnel of which 143, were the 1917-1922 type medals with the image of the Emperor Karl on the obverse

Order of Precedence:

- Gold Medal, Number 37 after the Bronze Military Merit Medal (Signum Laudis) and before the Gold Merit Cross with Crown
- Silver Medal First Class, Number 43 after the Gold Merit Cross and before the Silver Bravery Medal, Second Class
- Silver Medal Second Class, Number 44 after the Silver Bravery Medal First Class and before the Bronze Bravery Medal
- Bronze Medal, Number 45 after the Silver Bravery Medal Second Class and before the Elizabeth Medal

Type IV Gold Medal



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

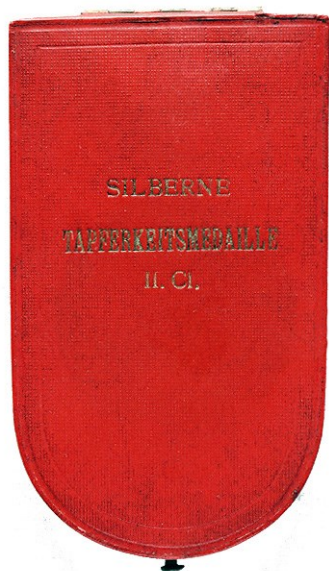
Type II Bronze Medal





Decorations
Bravery Medal
1917-1922
(Tapferkeitsmedaille)

Case: Some examples of the cases for the 1917-1920 Bravery Medals





Decorations

Bravery Medal

1917-1922
(Tapferkeitsmedaille)



Ribbon:

- A 38 to 42 mm wide crimson and white-laddered war ribbon worn as a tri-fold ribbon. The tri-fold ribbon was worn on the left side of the chest
- A small rectangular ribbon for this decoration sometimes issued with small attachments to indicate specific awards was introduced in October 27, 1917.



Attachments: Stainless steel trapezoid shaped bars to designate repeat award of the bravery medals. Johann Zimmler of Vienna was the manufacturer of these bars which are engraved on the back with his logo.

- Second award = a bar 50 mm in length (top edge) and 8 mm wide
- Third award = two bars: first bar is 50 mm in length at the top edge and the second bar is 40 mm in length (top edge) with both bars being 8 mm wide (Bars are spaced 20 mm apart)
- Fourth award = three bars: first bar is 50 mm in length at the top edge, the second bar is 40 mm in length (top edge) and the third bar is 30 mm in length with all bars being 8 mm wide (Bars are spaced 20 mm apart). Occasionally the bars are engraved although this was unofficial. There were two, four time winners of the gold bravery medal (Both received the 1916 version of the award). There were six, three time winners of the gold bravery medal of which 4 received the 1917 version of the medal. There were 32, two-time winners of the gold bravery medal, 19 of which received the 1917 version of the medal





Decorations
Bravery Medal
1917-1922
(Tapferkeitsmedaille)



The recipients of this version of the Gold Medal with third award bare were:

- Eugene Bonsch, Zugsführer, FliK 51
- Stephan Fejes, Stabsfeldwebel, FliK 51
- Friedrich Hefty, Stabsfeldwebel, FliK 51
- Franz Pichl, See-Kadett, Seeflugstation Triest

The recipients of this version Gold Medal with second award bare were:

- Emmerich Csengeri, Offiziersstellvertreter, 39th Infantry Regiment
- Reinhold Heinrich, Stabsfeldwebel, FliK 15
- Alexander Kasza, Zugsführer, FliK 55
- Alexander Klefacz, Feldwebel, FliK 59
- Ferdinand Knotig, Stabsfeldwebel, FliK 11
- Hugo Konig, Feldwebel, FliK 51
- Franz Koudela, Landsturm-Stabsfeldwebel, FliK 26
- Otto Kuntz, ElektroQuartierMeister, Seeflugstation Triest
- Konstantine Ruzsa, Offiziersstellvertreter, 43rd Infantry Regiment
- Rudolf Kusterle, Zugsführer, FliK 46
- Josef Pawlitschek, Landsturm-offiziersstellvertreter, 1st Infantry Regiment
- Johann Risztics, Stabsfeldwebel, FliK 42
- Alexader Sas, Reserv-Offiziersstellvertreter, 23rd Infantry Regiment
- Michael Schwach, Feldwebel, FliK 6
- Franz Slanina, Feldwebel, FliK 23
- Lajos Telessy, Feldwebel, FliK 9
- Ferdinand Udvardy, Zugsführer, FliK 42
- Karl Urban, Landsturm-Stabsfeldwebel, FliK 14
- Hans Wanneck, Feuerwerker, FliK 11

The recipients of this version Large Silver Medal with forth award bare was:

- Julius Arigi, Offiziersstellvertreter, FliK 6



There was one recipient of the enlisted and officers gold medal and that was Karl Ritter von Eiss who received the enlisted medal as a cadet in May 1915 and the officer's award as an Oberleutnant der Reserve in 1918





Decorations

Bravery Medal

1917-1922
(Tapferkeitsmedaille)

Miniature: Miniatures for this decoration exist.

- The gold miniatures are 17 mm in diameter and weigh 3.2 grams
- The silver miniatures are 20.7 mm in diameter and weigh 2.6 grams
- The bronze miniatures are 16 mm in diameter and weigh 2.1 grams





Decorations
Bravery Medal
1917-1922
(Tapferkeitsmedaille)

Groups with bravery medals





Decorations
Bravery Medal
1917-1922
(Tapferkeitsmedaille)

K. u. k. Infanterie- Regiment Nr. 27

Defret.

Dem f. u. k. Lst. Gfrit.

Jakob Scheirer

der MGK. III des Regiments wurde mit - - -

- - - vom - - - (Regimentskommandobefehl Nr. 109 vom 2.7.1917)

**In Anerkennung tapferen Verhaltens
vor dem Feinde**

die bronzene Tapferkeitsmedaille zum zweitemale
verliehen.

Feldpost 369, am 2. Juli 1917.



Karl von ...
Regimentskommandant.

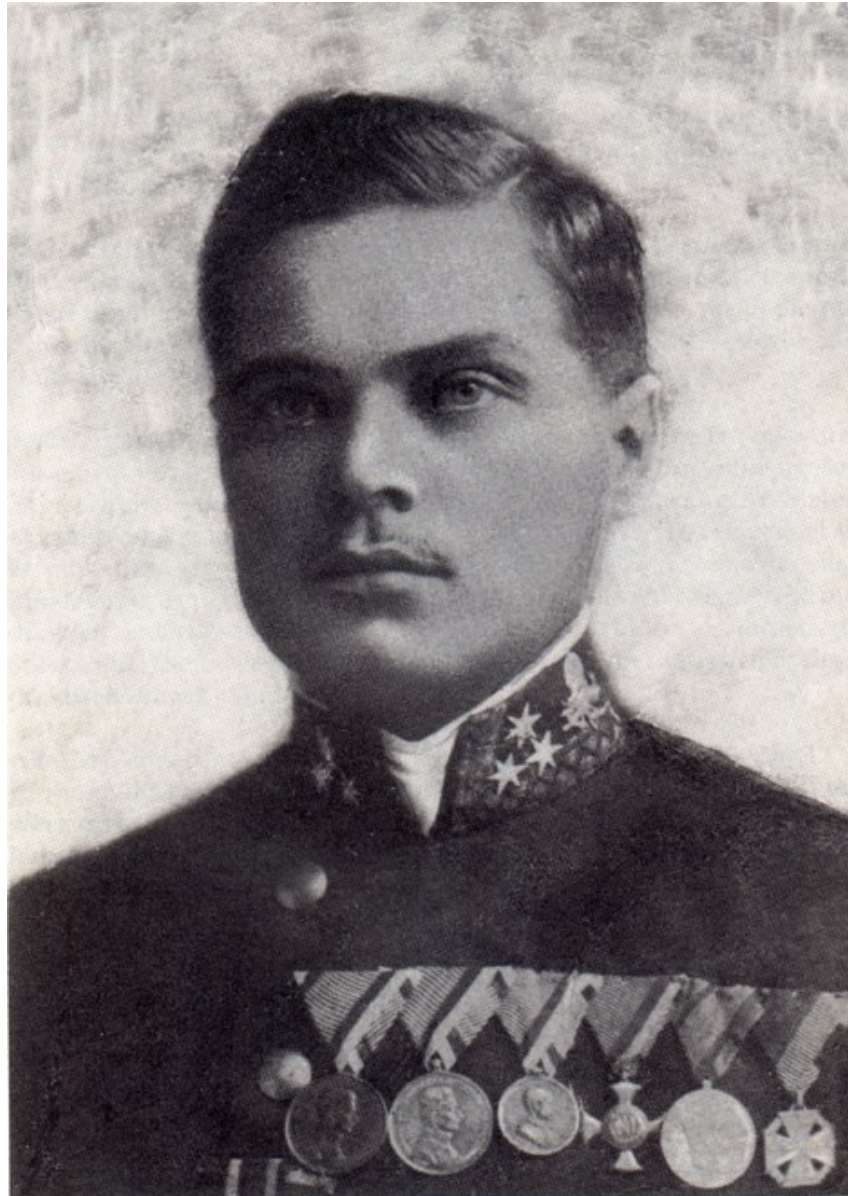
Image courtesy of Dorotheum

1917 Bronze Bravery Medal Certificate





Decorations
Bravery Medal
1917-1922
(Tapferkeitsmedaille)



An Austrian Feldwebel wearing the 1917 type gold and silver bravery medal first class





Decorations

Officer Bravery Medal

1917-1922

(Tapferkeitsmedaille)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

Date Issued: September 15, 1917– 1931

Reason Issued: All medals were issued to reward significant acts of bravery by officers in the face of an armed enemy. As a rule, this decoration was only awarded to those officers, who had already been recognized with the award of other significant Austrian military awards, but could not meet the strict requirements of the Military Maria Theresia Order's statutes.

Classes or Types: This decoration was issued in two classes

- Gold Officers Bravery Medal
- Silver Officers Bravery Medal

Interesting Facts:

- On June 5, 1849 the Emperor Franz Joseph I declared that all grades of the bravery medal could be worn at the same time.
- The Emperor Karl reserved the right to present the officers bravery medals
- These medals were awarded for acts of heroism that would also entitle the recipient to the Military Merit Cross third class with war decoration and swords. It is reported that officers preferred to receive this medal rather than the merit cross.
- Medals could be retained by the wife of the recipient upon his death. Single recipient's medals were to be returned
- It was not necessary to win a lower bravery medal to receive a higher award of the bravery medal
- From 1789 to 1918 there were 30 different versions of the bravery medal. These were the 29th and 30th version of the medal (last version).
- The last recipient of an Austrian Bravery Medal died in 2002.





Decorations
Officer Bravery Medal
1917-1922
(Tapferkeitsmedaille)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

Hallmarks:

- The mark of the Vienna Mint is often found on the rim of the medals in the one o'clock position
- The word BRONZE was found on the rim of some late war issue gold and silver medals
- HMA UNECHT (Struck by the Vienna Mint in base metal) is found on some silver medals with spade shaped suspension eye
- HMA Bronze (composed of base metal, Bronze)

Design: A round medal with a spherical ball shaped eye.

Obverse: A bust of the Emperor Karl facing to the viewers right in a marshals uniform with the Order of the Golden Fleece and the grand cordon of the Order of Maria Theresia. Above the bust is inscribed: **CAROLVS D.G. IMP. AVST. REX BOH. ETC. ET REX APOST. HVNG.** Translation: Karl with the grace of God Emperor of Austria, King of Bohemia Etc. and Apostolic King of Hungary. Below the shoulder of the bust of the emperor is the designer's name **KAUTSCH**. For some privately manufactured gold medals the name is **Petzl**.

Reverse: A Laurel Wreath tied at the bottom with a flying ribbon, the bottom of which rests on a group of four crossed flags and two standards with zig-zag lines to indicate the colors black, yellow, red, white and green. Partially hidden by the leaves of the wreath there appears on the right foremost flag, half of the Austrian, and on the corresponding flag on the left, half the Hungarian large coat of arms of the Dual Monarchy. In the field in the center of the medal is "**FORTITVDINI**" (Bravery).

Weight:

- Gold Bravery Medal: 30 grams
- Gold Medal, silver Gilt: 20 grams
- Gold Medal, Bronze Gilt: 17.8 grams
 - Silver Bravery Medal: 21.6 grams
 - Silver Bravery Medal, bronze gilt: 17 grams





Decorations

Officer Bravery Medal 1917-1922 (Tapferkeitsmedaille)

Size: 40 mm in diameter

Type of Material: Gold, silver, gold and silver gilt bronze

Variations:

- Type I Gold Medal: As described above
- Type II Gold Medal: As described above except in bronze gilt.
- Type III Gold Medal: As described above except in silver gilt
- Type I Silver Medal: A medal as described above
- Type II Silver Medal: A medal the same as Type I except it is bronze gilt.

Designer: Heinrich Kautsch

Manufacturer: The Vienna Hauptmunzamt (Imperial Vienna Mint)

Number Issued:

- 345 Gold Officer Bravery Medals were issued to officers who served in World War I. Of those 140 were issued before the fall of the empire, 19 were awarded after the fall of the empire by the Heller Commission and 186 by the Maria Theresia commission
- 1,200 Silver Officer Bravery Medals were issued to officers who served in World War I

Case: A red simulated leather case the top of lids of which were sometimes inscribed with the name of the decoration in silver. Special presentation cases also existed with a presentation inscription on the lid



Ribbon: A 38 to 42 mm crimson and white laddered tri-fold ribbon worn on the left side of the chest.

- A small rectangular ribbon for this decoration sometimes issued with small attachments was introduced in October 27, 1917.





Decorations

Officer Bravery Medal 1917-1922 (Tapferkeitsmedaille)

Attachments:

- An 18 mm high gold or silver K monogram composed of bullion thread or metal. The bullion K was the first issue and the metal K came later in the war
- Silver trapezoid shaped bars introduced on November 29, 1915 to designate repeat award of the bravery medals. There was no provision for a second award of the officer's bravery medal. However after the war Oberstleutnant Johann Charvat claimed to have received a second award of the gold medal (see below) Johann Zimmler of Vienna manufactured these bars which are engraved on the back with his logo.



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

Miniature: Miniatures are known to exist



Image courtesy of Dorotheum





Decorations
Officer Bravery Medal
1917-1922
(Tapferkeitsmedaille)

Bar with gold and silver Officers Bravery Medals



Image courtesy of Dorotheum





Decorations
Officer Bravery Medal
1917-1922
(Tapferkeitsmedaille)



1918 Gold Officers Bravery Medal Certificate

Image courtesy of Dorotheum





Decorations
Officer Bravery Medal
1917-1922
(Tapferkeitsmedaille)



Oberst Anton Lehar wearing the Gold Officers Bravery Medal

